



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Volunteer Week**

**WHEREAS**, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and throughout our history citizens have stepped up to meet our challenges by volunteering in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, volunteers nationwide are resolute in their commitment to serving their neighbors and communities, with 62.8 million adults volunteering almost 8.1 billion hours in local and national organizations annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island has a great treasure with an estimated 204,000 adults volunteering 25 million hours of service annually, addressing a wide range of community needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasing demands for public services are accompanied by limited public financial resources, thereby creating the need to call upon all citizens to help solve many of the problems facing our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to encourage and facilitate increased volunteer participation to meet community needs by utilizing the energy, talents, and compassion of Rhode Island's citizenry, thus helping to bring about a renewal of the ethic of citizenship in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Serve Rhode Island and the United Way of Rhode Island are strategic partners in growing volunteerism in the state through the involvement of businesses, corporations and community groups in volunteer service projects and ongoing weekly assignments in non-profit agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, volunteers are vital to our future as a caring and productive nation; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim April 15-21, 2012 as Volunteer Week in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of this week.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012

  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

  
A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State